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State Irritated by China Artic...

CIA to Review Publication Policy

By Henry S. Bradsher
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CIA Director George Bush has ordered a review of the agency's policy on allowing its employes to publish articles following what a CIA spokesman called misinterpretation of an article on America's China policy.

The article, appearing in the current issue of the quarterly magazine Foreign Policy, says the United States should consider establishing full diplomatic relations with Peking before the aged and feeble Mao Tse-tung dies, in hopes that this might influence Chinese policies.

China might turn isolationist or patch up relations with the Soviet Union after Mao dies, according to the author, Roger Glenn Brown of the CIA. He suggests that U.S. recognition of Peking could give Washington some influence on this.

THE ARTICLE caused irritation yesterday at the State Department, which had become aware of it only a day or two earlier. Senior officials felt the CIA name was being used to jostle official policy of working quietly toward full relations with China.

That policy has been stymied, however, by the U.S. defense treaty with the Chinese Nationalist regime on Taiwan, with which Washington has full diplomatic relations.

While the formalities of diplomatic recognition were switched from Taiwan to Peking fairly easily by countries such as Japan, those countries lacked the complication of being committed to Taiwan's defense against Peking.

Brown simply suggested that "the United States could follow the 'Japanese model'" without explaining what to do about the defense tie. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said at the close of President Ford's visit to Peking in December that the U.S.-Taiwan treaty was an unresolved problem in switching relations. This still is true.

THE STATE Department's spokesman, Robert L. Funseth, said yesterday that commentaries by government officials on foreign policy "should be cleared in advance by the State Department."

A CIA spokesman said Bush's order for a review of the agency's publication policy was not the result of any complaints from outside the agency. It was decided upon in order to avoid problems of misinterpretation such as occurred over Brown's article, he said.

The article was published with a statement disclaiming that it represented CIA attitudes, although Brown was identified as a senior analyst at the agency's office of political research.

Bush does not intend to prevent all publication of CIA material, the spokesman said. In recent years CIA analysts have been publishing increasingly widely in academic journals, congressional studies and other forms. Most articles have dealt with factual material on foreign countries assembled and analyzed by them, rather than U.S. governmental policies.

AT THE TIME of escalating U.S. involvement in Vietnam, the quarterly magazine Foreign Affairs — a different publication from Foreign Policy — published an article supporting the commitment, written by George A. Carver. He was identified only as a specialist in Vietnamese affairs.

This caused an outcry in Washington. Carver was then a senior CIA official helping shape Vietnam policy, and the failure to tell readers of this connection brought congressional and press complaints.

The identification of Brown in the present article apparently was intended to head off such complaints. But despite the disclaimer, his article appeared as a reflection of a viewpoint within the government.

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